

## LOCAL NEWS

**LAPD Chief Charlie Beck announces retirement**

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti and LAPD Chief Charlie Beck hug after Beck announced his retirement effective June of this year. The moment occurred after a press conference where the mayor and chief announced a reduction in certain crimes, like homicide, in the city during the past year. Los Angeles, CA 1/018/2018 (Photo by John McCoy, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

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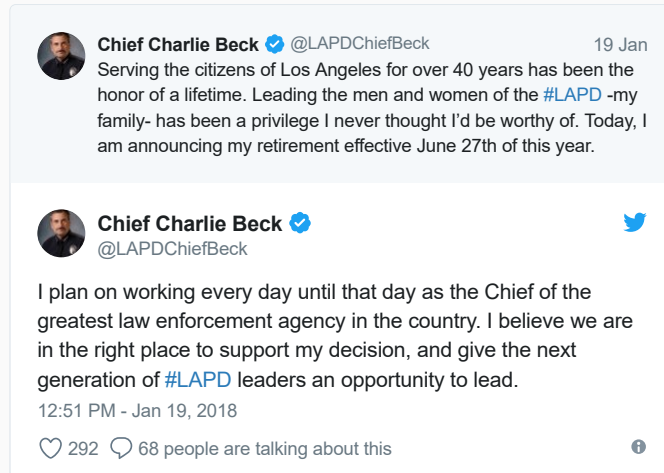
In a surprise announcement, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck said Friday he will retire in June, ending a more than 40-year career with the LAPD capped by eight years as L.A.'s top cop in a time of change for the storied department.

Beck is in his second five-year term as L.A.'s 56th police chief. It was to end in November 2019. Instead, his last day will be June 27, his 65th birthday.

The announcement came at what was expected to be a routine downtown press conference at which Beck and other officials review annual crime statistics.

"The department is ready for fresh eyes to take our organization to even higher levels," Beck said on Twitter..

"Serving the citizens of Los Angeles for over 40 years has been the honor of a lifetime," he said in another tweet. "Leading the men and women of the [LAPD] — my family — has been a privilege I never thought I'd be worthy of."



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who attended the announcement, called it "a big day for this city and an emotional one for me," saying he had learned a lot from Beck since Garcetti's early days as a city councilman. Garcetti said he had known of Beck's retirement plan for about two weeks.



A Long Beach native, Beck is a second-generation LAPD officer. His father, George, retired in 1980 at the rank of deputy chief.

The announcement came after officials revealed statistics showing crimes such as homicides have fallen in Los Angeles but lesser offenses have seen a slight increase. Beck said the number of victims shot citywide fell by 10 percent in 2017.

In Beck's time at the LAPD helm, violent crime statistics in generally continued decades of improvement, although homicides ticked upward the past few years.

The announcement also came on the day Van Nuys division LAPD Captain Lillian Carranza filed a whistleblower lawsuit alleging top brass and the LAPD's Office of the Inspector General ignored her repeated complaints that violent crime were being under-reported even after the department said it had taken steps to fix the issue.

Although Beck pushed for better relations between the police and minority communities than the LAPD had seen under previous chiefs, and was credited with continuing the rehabilitation of the nation's third largest police department from the 1992 Los Angeles riots and Rampart Division corruption scandal, his term was marked by incidents of alleged police brutality. Critics said Beck was too easy on officers involved in shootings of civilians.

After Monday's news broke, the L.A. chapter of Black Lives Matter tweeted that Beck's departure is a victory, writing: "We've been chanting #FireBeck since 2015, showing up to police commission every week, and making demands of the mayor. WE WON!!!!"



Jasmyne Cannick, a race-relations commentator, tweeted that Beck's announcement would inspire celebrations in African-American communities.



If Beck departs on his own terms, that alone sets him apart from most L.A. police chiefs, most of whom have ended their tenures either by being fired or by leaving for an easier job.

Beck's predecessor, William Bratton, resigned unexpectedly in 2009 to take a job with a New York City company to help developing nations build professional law enforcement agencies. The two chiefs before Bratton — Bernard Parks and Willie Williams — weren't renewed by city officials. The chief before that, Daryl Gates, retired under pressure following the Rodney King beating and ensuing riots.

Beck's performance since he was appointed police chief by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in 2009 was lauded by Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch Englander, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley and is an LAPD reserve officer.

"Chief Charlie Beck has given a lifetime of service to the City of Los Angeles," Englander said in a statement. "A sworn officer since 1977, he has served with distinction and honor, overseeing the department through some of the largest reductions in violent crime in the City's history. Chief Beck has implemented reforms that have modernized the department, built trust and enhanced relationships with diverse communities, and made the LAPD a model department for cities, worldwide."

Under the city charter, the process for naming a replacement for Beck involves the city's personnel department, civilian L.A. Police Commission, mayor and City Council.

From six candidates vetted by the personnel department, the Police Commission will recommend three candidates to the mayor, who can appoint one or ask for three more candidates. The City Council must sign off on the mayor's pick or ask the commission for another recommendation.

Police Commission President Steve Soboroff said Beck has "helped to make the LAPD the preeminent law enforcement agency in the world."

"His focus on community policing has resulted in creating, maintaining and expanding the great relationships the department has with the diverse communities of Los Angeles," Soboroff said in a statement. "The many successes in programs that have been implemented under his leadership will serve as a testimony to his skill as a leader."

Commission Vice President Matt Johnson praised Beck for guiding the LAPD through the final stages of the federal consent decree, the oversight that followed the Rampart scandal.

"He implemented department-wide training on de-escalation, implicit bias and dealing with the mentally ill, outfitted every officer in the field with tasers and body worn cameras and expanded our community policing initiatives," Johnson said in a statement.

The Los Angeles Police Protective League — the officers' union — called for the next chief to oversee a beefed-up force.

"We urge Mayor Garcetti to appoint a new chief who's committed to reducing violent crime, addressing our officer understaffing crisis, and preparing the LAPD to secure our city during the 2028 Olympic Games," the LAPPL said in a statement.

City Councilman Joe Buscaino, who represents the harbor communities and was an LAPD officer for 15 years, urged Garcetti to look for qualified women candidates for chief. The department hasn't had a woman chief.



**Joe Buscaino**   
@JoeBuscaino



It's time for Los Angeles to have its first female Chief of the LAPD. I urge the Police Commission to seek out qualified women candidates to lead the nation's second-largest police department.

1:14 PM - Jan 19, 2018



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## Olga Grigoryants

Olga Grigoryants is a multimedia reporter focusing on urban development, business and culture. She also supports the paper in its watchdog role to hold San Fernando Valley power players accountable and loves digging for public records. After studying writing in Moscow, she moved to Los Angeles in 2007 and has called it home ever since. She earned her master's degree from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, and has published articles with Reuters, Bloomberg, the Los Angeles Business Journal and LA Weekly. Along the way, she picked up awards from the Los Angeles Press Club and Society of Professional Journalists. If you want to get on her bright side, she loves a perfect cup of matcha latte.


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**Elizabeth Chou**, Los Angeles Daily News

## Elizabeth Chou

Elizabeth Chou has reported on Los Angeles City Hall government and politics since 2013, first with City News Service, and now the Los Angeles Daily News since the end of 2016. She grew up in the Los Angeles area, and formerly a San Gabriel Valley girl. She now resides in the other Valley, and is enjoying exploring her new San Fernando environs. She previously worked at Eastern Group Publications, covering Montebello, Monterey Park, City of Commerce, and Vernon.

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**Kevin Modesti**, Los Angeles Daily News

## Kevin Modesti

Kevin Modesti is a reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News and the Southern California News Group, covering the political scene in Los Angeles County. An L.A. native, he was a sports writer, columnist and editor for most of his career, and later an editorial board member, writer and editor in the Opinion section. He lives in the San Fernando Valley and is based in the Woodland Hills office.

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**Ryan Carter**, Los Angeles Daily News

## Ryan Carter

Ryan Carter is city editor of the Los Angeles Daily News. He's an assignment editor who revels in the delights of good story ideas and photos.

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